Cotton Blossoms Squeak Out Another Win

Monticello, Ark. - The University of Arkansas-Monticello scored the only run of the game with two out in the bottom of the eighth inning to defeat Southern Arkansas University here Saturday. The previous day, it took 11 innings for the Cotton Blossoms to squeak past the Lady Muleriders 2-1 to give UAM consecutive extra-inning one-run decisions over the luckless Lady ‘Riders.

In Gulf South Conference West Division play, UAM goes to 19-5 and SAU drops to 13-10. Overall, UAM is 34-11 and SAU 23-17.

Lindsey Kight, the ace of the UAM staff for the past four years, beat SAU both games. Saturday, she pitched all eight innings and gave up only three hits, walked only one, and struck out five to improve her impressive record to 21-7.

Krystal Poulin pitched six and two-thirds innings for SAU, giving up four hits, no runs, walked four, and fanned 10. Cassie Blackwood came on in relief and worked only two-thirds of an inning when UAM scored the winning run. She allowed two hits, one earned run, walked one, and fanned none. Blackwood was the loser, falling to 4-5.

UAM’s Courtney Doyle and Jennifer Hickman were both two for four and Hickman scored the game’s only run. For SAU, Robyn Smith, Lindsey Haas, and Victoria Estrada were one for three, and the only Lady ‘Rider hitters.

After the Lady ‘Riders loaded the bases in the top of the seventh and failed to score, the Cotton Blossoms loaded the bases after two were out but also were unable to score in the bottom of the inning.

Going into extra innings, SAU went quietly in the eighth but UAM opened their half with a single by Doyle, who was advanced to second on a bunt single by Hickman. After a fielder’s choice, Doyle was cut down at home on a throw from second to the catcher, two away, but the bases still loaded. Blackwood walked Sarah Reed to force Hickman home with the deciding run.

The third game of the series was canceled when a downpour forced the second game of Saturday’s twin bill to be called and officials decided not to make it up. UAM has now clinched the GSC West championship they shared last year with SAU.

Southern Arkansas has only a non-conference doubleheader at Henderson State Tuesday before starting GSC Tournament play Friday.